Athletics: England's last-race victory

26th Sept. 1957

Seeking revenge for that recent Warsaw defeat - England welcomed Poland to the White City. floodlit meeting (sponsored by the Daily Express), the Womens' 800 Metres crowned a great season for Diane Leather. Leading most of the way - Diane was followed home by team-mate B. Loakes. Maximum points that ensured a narrow victory for their team. Starting the final lap of the Mens' 800 Metres, Derek Johnson was trailing in fourth place. But watch him unleash a victory burst Sweeping round the final bend - he passes the other Pole, Kazimierski -No. 4 - and then goes after his team-mate Mike Farrell. Yard by yard, they battled it out And at the tape - Johnson got the verdict - and the cheers. In the 1500 metres, Stefan Lewandowski (No 3 Poland's Flying Doctor was a welcome starter, softer Pole Orywal led Derek Ibbotson - and then Ken Wood (No. 2) - made his familiar last-lap burst Far from beaten, Lewandowski launched a determined challenge - and was narrowing the gap as Ken Wood hit the tape ... A well-earned triumph for the Yorkshire battler. Tithxaxtwoxpointxlaadxandxfiriexandxinizhtxinxthexer000xMatrosxxxEngland 190hadoseter Street alorenter Leading by two points - England had Pirie and Knight in the 5,000 Metres the last race. Victory seemed assured, until suddenly, a tired Pirie was tailed off last - and the two Poles - Chromick and Zimny, were way out in front. Realising that nothing less than victory could win the match, Knight produced a burst that took him into every English heart The Polish aces were beaten: the Cheers saluted George Knight. England won the match by eighty points to seventy-seven. A great Knight: a great victory.

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